



State of the City of West Lafayette 2013 February 3, 2014

The largest annexation in the history of West Lafayette will become final within the next two weeks. After years of investigation, planning and public input, the City Council gave its final approval in November of 2013 to the annexation of 3,997 acres including the Purdue University campus and the properties adjoining US 231 Highway Corridor. Currently undeveloped, the Corridor presents vast opportunities to create a new gateway to the City and the University. Two new Tax Investment Finance districts will provide the economic engine to encourage the growth of business which advance City and University purposes and enhance the quality of life for our residents and visitors.

Acknowledging a history of robust cooperation in the areas of public safety, infrastructure services and economic development with the City, the Purdue University Board of Trustees formally agreed to the annexation by the City a few days ago. As part of the annexation process, the two entities have approved an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement which outlines the strategic goals of the annexation and creates a Joint Board to implement these goals and provide a formal framework for future cooperation.

All City departments have been involved extensively in planning for the annexation and the increase in our previously compact geographic footprint will present each area of City service opportunities to increase cooperation and operational efficiencies.

Public Safety services continue to ensure our City is one of the safest places to live anywhere. Police Chief Jason Dombkowski reports the Police Department received 27,132 calls for service, an increase of 12% compared to 2012. Much of this activity is attributed to the proactive approach taken by our police department in addressing a broad range of citizen issues

which affect our quality of life. The most current FBI statistics confirm that West Lafayette has the lowest combined rate of violent crime and property crime of any Big 10 University city.

Traffic enforcement remains a priority for the police department with a renewed focus on school zone safety. Traffic stops increased by 14% from 2012. The Neighborhood Resource Team, which is focused on code enforcement, parking violations, and animal control issues, responded to 2,410 call for service in 2013; a 1% increase from the year before.

Fire Chief Tim Heath believes in training. One important result is the excellent response time provided to citizens; with an average response time of only two minutes and ten seconds, we are much better than the national average. Once our firefighters get to an incident scene, the department's combined 4600 hours of training also enables them to deal with whatever emergency is found safely and efficiently. With 3 fire stations providing protection, the response breakdown among these stations showed Station 1 with 530 incidents, Station 2 with 783 incidents, and Station 3 with 497 incidents reported. With more structures to inspect and more territory to cover, the West Lafayette Fire Department will continue to be busy.

City Engineer and Public Works Director Dave Buck continues to use his energy and vision to make our roads, streets, sidewalks, and trail projects serve the needs of our citizens and visitors.

Travelling on Northwestern Avenue you will see a beautiful new gateway to our Community between Yeager and Lindburg Roads complete with new curbs, gutters, a new center median, and improved drainage. This project was completed on-time and \$400,000 under budget.

2013 saw \$700,000 worth of street resurfacing, sidewalk repairs and ADA ramp construction. Work was completed throughout Blackbird Farms as well as on Garden, Summit, Navajo, Grant, Andrew Place, Hayes, Sylvia, Russell, Kent, and Kalberer.

Salisbury Street will have the final phase of reconstruction work between Rainbow Drive and US 52 completed in 2014. The work will include ADA improvements, new sidewalks, curbs and pavement, as well as traffic signal coordination all along the Salisbury Street corridor. Cumberland phase 2 was completed linking Yeager to Salisbury and enhancing access to Plaza

Park and the West Lafayette Schools' athletic complex. Phase 3 of Cumberland Avenue, from Salisbury to Soldiers Home Road, will begin construction in the summer of 2014 after the final input on design is received. Finally, design work for the reconstruction of Happy Hollow Road is wrapping up which will allow this federally funded project to begin construction in the fall of 2014. The project will rebuild the road with new curbs, pavement, and a continuous trail to connect neighborhoods to Happy Hollow Park.

New curbs and sidewalks along Maple, Lutz, First and Second Streets, at a cost of \$350,000, were completed in 2013. For the first year, the City used an innovative technique to remove over 1,700 sidewalk trip hazards in University Farms and around all the City's parks and public meeting spaces. This new process of repair rather than replacement resulted in savings of over \$350,000 for the City. Continuing a recent upward trend, the annual amount of construction dollars spent in West Lafayette has increased to over \$89 million from \$63 million in 2012.

All streets in our City require constant upkeep and maintenance. Under Commissioner Dave Downey, the Street, Sanitation and Recycling Department has continued to perform very well for our Citizens. Due primarily to our State's relinquishment program where local units of government are required to maintain what were previously State owned highways, the City street inventory has increased from 86 miles to 126 miles of streets. Also from 8 traffic signals to maintain, the City has seen an increase to 32 traffic signals.

Every day, in front of every home and down every street, curb and sidewalk, work is being done. Street sweepers collected 641 tons of debris off of city streets, while nearly 200 tons of asphalt was put back on the streets to fill potholes. Thousands of gallons of traffic paint, hundreds of signs, and millions of pounds of salt and sand to control snow and ice have gone through the Street Department in the past year. While the total tonnage of trash collected decreased somewhat from 2012, the recycling rate increased to a total of 30%. Combined with composting, the percentage of items saved from going to a landfill increased to 46% of the total West Lafayette waste.

Wastewater Utility Director Dave Henderson worries about water resource recovery so that the rest of us do not have to. The Western Interceptor, a milestone project to both reduce

Combined Sewer Overflows and provide capacity for growth in the City, was put in service in 2013. To anticipate growth in the City, a very economical method has been used to increase total wastewater plant capacity by 17%. The utility continues to harness food waste and grease to create energy. In 2013, 16% of the wastewater plant's energy needs were generated onsite. Design was completed for the Cumberland Sewer Extension which will help serve areas along the new US 231 Corridor in the annexation area. Our award winning wastewater utility continues to lead the way in redefining how to use wastewater to create energy and clean water for discharge into the Wabash River.

Parks Superintendent Joe Payne and his staff continue to take care of our recreational needs from their newly relocated main office on Kalberer Road, the site of the former temporary fire station #3. The City now has 27 miles of off-the-road, multi-use, paved trails in the trails network. This includes trail extensions along Cumberland and Northwestern Avenues and six miles of new trail along the new US 231. Reconstruction continues on the Ravine Footpath, connecting Salisbury Street with the Wabash Heritage Trail in Happy Hollow Park.

More than 2,000 children enjoyed our summer sports and playground programs, and swimming and diving lessons at the Municipal Pool. Adult softball continues to thrive in the recreational softball league which now has 37 teams participating.

Morton continues to be busy with the Wabash Area Lifetime Learning Association and recreation classes and programs which served nearly 4,000 people of all ages in 2013. On August 31st, Global Fest once again celebrated our community's diversity including the Naturalization Ceremony where 94 people became new citizens of our Country. The Riverside Skating Center and Tapawingo Park continues to serve the public. Thousands of visitors have visited Lilly Nature Center and the Celery Bog Nature Area continues to attract visitors in all seasons.

ADA improvements continue to be a priority with the municipal pool being the most recent focus to enable full and complete access to all citizens. The Lilly Nature Center has recently installed a hearing loop to assist people with hearing devices.

Volunteers continue to make our parks and recreation opportunities thrive. From Sagamore West Farmers' Market to the Master Gardner's Association and its work in the Community Gardens, volunteers are everywhere in the Parks Department and make the wheels of recreation in our community roll smoothly.

Department of Development Director Chandler Poole has been very busy in 2013. The US 231 Corridor Annexation was the major initiative for the Department of Development in the past year. However, a great deal more progress on many fronts was also made including the organizational meeting of the Historical Preservation Commission and the approval of the New Chauncey Land Use Plan by the City Council. Both initiatives took extensive time for research, negotiation among stake holders, and implementation.

Working once again with our partners at Purdue and Purdue Research Foundation, the State Street Master Plan running from the river through the Village and Purdue Campus to the new US 231 bypass on the west has begun. The Plan will be receiving a great deal of input between now and its completion sometime this summer.

Not so many years ago, the Wabash Commons area was an eyesore. In 2013 the new IU Health facility became the final piece of the puzzle in developing this former distressed site. Both Faith West and Lafayette Community Bank are now situated on the former Family Inn location that sat derelict for many years on Northwestern Avenue.

The rental housing certification program inspected over 1,650 units in 2013 to make sure our rental housing is safe and up to code.

Our beautiful City was shared with thousands of people, including 2,300 runners who competed in the Purdue Boilermaker Half-Marathon from 30 states and several countries.

Clerk-Treasurer Judy Rhodes is always in full command of all of the details which make a City's finances run smoothly. Fortunately for all, our Clerk-Treasurer is also blessed with vision and foresight. One such area involves our antiquated financial management software which has been in place in various forms for decades. Knowing the future of our City required it, Judy has spent the last several years planning a comprehensive update of the computer system to an enterprise class system. This extremely challenging and time consuming transition has

progressed very well under her oversight. Soon to begin deployment, the new program will ensure accuracy, efficiency, and transparency of all of the City's financial functions.

Once again, despite cost increases all around, our Clerk-Treasurer has overseen the preparation of a budget which increased by less than 1% over 2013. Our cash reserves continue to be strong and the financial condition of our city is robust.

Quality of life for our citizens and visitors continues to be the most important task for city government. Smart growth, safe neighborhoods, efficient infrastructure, and recreational opportunities for all must remain our focus as a City. I am pleased to be able to report that the state of the City of West Lafayette is strong and improving, and together we will all continue to do our best for the citizens of West Lafayette.

Mayor John R. Dennis